MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 JANUARY 1982

Sudan

Meeting With Mubarak -- SUNA reported that President Ja'far Numayri arrived in Aswan on the morning of 27 January and immediately began talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Internal Situation -- Citing Beirut diplomatic sources, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that President Numayri and his aides foiled a coup attempt by a number of officers calling themselves the Sudanese Unionist officers. Monitored Sudanese media have not mentioned any coup attempt. However, SUNA reported that President Numayri issued a decree retiring 22 army officers. According to a related MENA report, Numayri met again with senior officers on 26 January and the talks were expected to result in "important decisions," including the appointment of a new first vice president. JANA claimed that the authorities have begun a wide-scale campaign of arrests among army personnel and former members of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU). Meanwhile, Omdurman radio noted that on 30 January President Numayri will address the newly formed popular committee, set up to review SSU laws and regulations.

Egypt

Foreign Relations -- MENA reported that in a statement published by the London TIMES, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said he hopes U.S.-Egyptian relations, which are already very close, will become even better. Emphasizing that the likely improvement in Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union will not affect U.S.-Egyptian relations, 'Ali said the return of Soviet experts to Egypt will be for a specific period during which they will install equipment contracted for before their expulsion.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH asserted that Egypt has been secretly negotiating with Libya "prior to the restoration of relations between the two countries." AS-SIYASAH claimed that a "senior Egyptian figure," who held an authoritative position during Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir's presidency and who is close to the Libyans, is currently mediating to restore normal relations between Egypt and Libya. In a similar vein, KUNA reported that another Kuwaiti paper, AL-WATAN, said that Libya's intelligence chief has met secretly with President Mubarak.

Detainees Released -- MENA reported that the socialist prosecutor decided to release another 42 detainees, including some Muslim and Christian clergymen.

Further on Mubarak Speech -- In his speech to the National Democratic Party (NDP) Congress, broadcast live by Cairo radio, President Mubarak said the party must derive its qualification to lead the nation from a popular mandate and not from the regime's authority and power to exploit decisionmaking. Asserting that a rational intellectual dialogue and competition among various views will crystallize national unanimity, he said there will be no dictating of viewpoint or "terrorism of thought and idea."

Turning to the economy, he said the results of past policies must be objectively assessed and problems should be realistically tackled without concealing the facts from the people or making lavish promises. Noting that he has called on a group of economists to participate with the government in formulating its economic strategy, Mubarak said an economic conference will begin its work on 13 February. He also said the new 5-year plan should be integrated and practical and should ensure stability and continuity, maintaining the open-door policy and directing it in a way that will attract Arab and foreign capital into Egypt to modernize the economy without aggravating the "consumer phenomenon." Calling for equality of sacrifices, he asserted that it is impermissible for the benefits of economic policy to be confined to a special minority or for working people to assume unbearable burdens.

Israel

No-Confidence Motion Defeat -- By a vote of 55 to 52, with 13 MK's absent, the Knesset defeated a motion of no-confidence submitted by the Alighment, IDF radio reported.

Shamir on Autonomy, Egypt, Golan -- Jerusalem radio summarized an address by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the Jerusalem Economic Club in which he said Israel proposed the autonomy not in order to be severed from the territories but to live in them peacefully with the Palestinian Arabs.

Shamir rejected the view that peace with Egypt cannot be maintained without an agreement on autonomy.

On 23 January the Swedish paper SVENSKA DAGBLADET published an interview with Shamir in which he referred to Syria's repeated refusal to negotiate with Israel and to a "very extreme" declaration by President Hafiz al-Asad, but added that "the real reason" for applying Israeli law to the Golan Heights was the fact that Israel had been determined for a long time not to withdraw from the area, and "since we will shortly be facing a situation in which all of our borders will be normalized, we decided to do the same with our border with Syria." Later in the interview Shamir said that Israel now views its previous line of demarcation with Syria as its border, and that there will be no discussions of border changes. When asked whether his statement applies even to minor adjustments that might be discussed in future negotiations, Shamir replied that despite Israel's past and present readiness to negotiate without preconditions, Syria does not want to negotiate with Israel but to conquer it militarily.

MA'ARIV on Haig, Autonomy -- Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit to Jerusalem and Cairo scheduled to begin today, MA'ARIV contended that this "utterly unnecessary" visit will not only fail to advance the talks but publicize their complete futility and demonstrate that it is impossible to reach an agreement on full autonomy either before or after April. MA'ARIV claimed that Egypt's stand that the model for autonomy must satisfy the Palestinians and the PLO is not an opening position that might be softened in the talks but a final position, since only a document acceptable to the Palestinians will serve Egypt as an admission ticket for returning to the Arab fold.

Bethlehem Mayor's Advertisement -- According to Jerusalem radio, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj published an advertisement in east Jerusalem papers saying his statements on PLO-Israeli mutual recognition had been quoted imprecisely and out of context. He claimed that he sought to describe Israel as greedy for land and hostile to peace, noted that he had no intention of modifying his recognition of the PLO as the Palestinians' sole representative and promised he would continue to obey PLO resolutions.

According to Beirut radio, Palestine National Council Chairman Khalid al-Fahum strongly criticized the statements by Frayj and Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawa that called for recognition of Israel. Al-Fahum said the statements are defeatist and totally contradict the Palestine national charter and the Palestinian people's unanimous refusal to recognize the Israeli occupation.

GCC

SPA reported that after the conclusion of the conference of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) defense ministers in Riyadh, Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said all conference resolutions were adopted unanimously, stressing that the Arab Gulf states are "one force." He denied the Gulf needs outside protection and asserted that the GCC defense ministers "found no gaps among them through which any enemy seeking to fish in troubled waters can infiltrate." Prince Sultan also said the conference decisions are secret because deeds should precede words.

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BREZHNEV, SATTAR EXCHANGE MESSAGES ON TIES

BK251535 Hong Kong AFP in English 0658 GMT 25 Jan 82

[Text] Dacca, 25 Jan (AFP) -- Soviet chief of state Leonid Brezhnev and Bangladesh President Abdus Sattar have exchanged messages to mark the 10th anniversary today of the establishment of diplomatic relations between their two countries.

The day is being celebrated in both Dacca and Moscow through exhibitions, film shows and seminars.

Mr Brezhnev, in his message, expressed the hope that bilateral relations would develop further for the welfare of the two peoples and would serve the cause of strengthening peace in Asia and the world.

In his message, President Sattar recalled the valuable Soviet assistance to Bangladesh during difficult times and also noted the fruitful cooperation between Dacca and Moscow in various international forums.

"As we enter the second decade of relations between Bangladesh and the USSR, I am confident that our cooperation will further widen and grow in depth to the mutual benefit of our two peoples."

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Prof Shamsul Haq also exchanged messages.

On Saturday, a spokesman of the Soviet Embassy in Dacca termed the anniversary a "very important event and an historic occasion" in the development of all round relationship between the two friendly nations.

He expressed satisfaction at the growth of bilateral trade relations over the years and said that at present the trade gap was reduced to almost nill. Total trade turnover between Dacca and Moscow in 1981 stood at 57.6 million rubles compared to 36.6 million rubles in 1976.

MUSLIM LEAGUE PARTY CHIEF DIES IN DACCA

BK251539 Hong Kong AFP in English 0837 GMT 25 Jan 82

[Text] Dacca, 25 Jan (AFP) -- Khan A. Sabur, chief of the rightist Muslim League Party and a veteran parliamentarian, died at a Dacca hospital today at age 74, it was reported here.

The official BSS agency said that Mr Sabur had been admitted to the hospital about a week ago with acute heart trouble and bronchial asthma.

A former communications minister in Ayub regime of united Pakistan, Khan A. Sabur revived his party in the late seventies after a 4-year ban imposed by Sheykh Mujib's post-liberation government.

He was elected to the new Parliament in 1979 from three constituencies in Khulna but later vacated from two of them.

BRIEFS

JUTE TO USSR -- The Soviet Union will receive 84,000 bales of raw jute worth about 140 million taka from Bangladesh. A contract to this effect was signed between the two countries in Dacca on 19 January. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jan 82 BK]

HINDUSTAN TIMES ON INDO-PAKISTANI NO-WAR TALKS

BK251704 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1622 GMT 25 Jan 82

[Text] The Hindustan TIMES, in an article by Bharat Karnad, "Obstacles to a No-War Pact," writes that the Simla Agreement is an obstacle to a no-war pact between India and Pakistan. There is no way round the fact that the Simla accord was a treaty of peace and New Delhi's insistence that it is comprehensive overlooks this. The Simla pact represents what international jurists call "Rechtsgeschaft" -- a definite transaction. A no-war pact establishes a general rule of conduct -- "Rechtssatz." By forswearing a resort to violence, the signatories agree to give up a sovereign right. To be credible, such a commitment should be without coercion as it would be now should India and Pakistan agree. However, if India enters into a discussion suspecting Pakistan's motive and with an attitude of resigned wariness, as it shows every sign of doing, talks will be reduced to bickering and a no-war pact will remain (?remote).

Differing attitudes towards the Soviet presence in Afghanistan is another obstacle. To Pakistan, it looms as an immediate threat to its security; to India, the threat lies in the U.S. build-up in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean, which appears to Pakistan as the best safeguard against the Soviet quest for a warm water port. However, Afghanistan also holds the key to solve Indo-Pak confrontationist postures. It is the Soviet presence in Afghanistan that has neutralized the Beijing-Islamabad axis and forced Islamabad closer to New Delhi. A no-war pact would promote the movement toward collective security but it would also be aggrandizing India's power in the subcontinent at Pakistan's expense.

India has misread the basic Pak motive in suggesting the no-war pact as an attempt to undermine the Simla Agreement. A no-war pact pivots on shared security concerns and perspectives. It is a precautionary measure suggested by the Pak military junta to avoid, albeit theoretical, the pincer of the Soviet Union and India. A continued Soviet presence in Afghanistan is advantageous to India but with diminishing returns. Pakistan has already shown its willingness to be absorbed in the U.S. military plan for west Asia. To prevent this denouement, India will have to act more sensibly and more like the potentially big power it is.

India has ignored some basic geopolitical truths like the essential incompatibility of Indian and Soviet objectives in the region. With the Soviets ensconced in India's proximity, the countries in the area will begin to key their policies to accommodate the Kremlin, not New Delhi. India had two buffer states between it and the USSR -- Pakistan and Afghanistan. Now there is only one. Pakistan, by this reckoning, has none. The lack of alarm in the Indian Government at this trend is amazing. It should make us empathetic to Pakistan's security concerns. The success of a no-war pact would depend on the Indian Government's realizing this fact.

Another problem facing a no-war pact is the tricky issue of agreeing to forge structures that will both take care of the larger looming threat over the subcontinent and discreetly defend against an only too recent adversary turned friend.

DACCA REGRETS INCIDENT AT INDIAN EXHIBIT

BK270424 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] In Dacca, some persons belonging to the anti-Indian elements, said to be belonging to the Jatiya Gonotantrik Party, damaged a few paintings at the exhibition on India.

The exhibition opened on Monday. It is organized by the High Commission of India. The Bangladesh Government has expressed regret over the incident.

Indian High Commissioner in Dacca Muchkund Dubey has said that the weeklong exhibition will continue despite the incident.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

BK241637 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] The international youth conference on human survival and development has concluded in New Delhi with a call for united efforts by youths all over the world for peace, security and disarmament. A declaration issued at the end of the 3-day conference has stressed the need for creating a world free from tensions. It has urged all concerned states to take up total nuclear disarmament accompanied by mutually acceptable means of verification. The declaration has demanded that the UN resolution calling for maintaining the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace should be implemented. The concept should be extended to other zones as a realistic approach toward reducing tension. It has expressed concern that the crisis in international relations has become so intense that it threatens the very survival of mankind. The danger of a nuclear holocaust has never been more real and the process of detente never further from realization. In such a situation the youth of the world cannot stand idle and let things come to pass.

Taking note of the contribution of the nonaligned nations in maintaining world peace, the conference exhorted youth movements to strengthen the constructive efforts of these countries. It expressed its solidarity with the Palestinian people and condemned the Israeli policy of occupying Arab lands and the annexation of the Golan Heights. The declaration points out that the right of people everywhere to choose their own political, economic and social systems without foreign interference and pressure must be respected and implemented by all the states. It condemns the racist South African regime and use of mercenaries by hostile forces to destabilize sovereign states. The conference has decided to observe 1985 [year as heard] as the year of participation, development and peace in accordance with the UN resolution in this regard.

On the economic front, the conference stressed the need for evolving a new international economic order. It felt that the youth of the world should dedicate themselves to developing new and renewable sources of energy.

The conference, which was organized by the Indian Youth Congress-I, was attended by delegates from 42 countries.

Earlier, in his valedictory address, External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao urged youths the world over to come forward in reversing the threat of a nuclear war. Rao regretted the talk of a limited nuclear warfare in specified areas. Apparently there is no concern for those living in these areas. He was critical of the tendency of certain nations to speak of negotiating from a position of strength. This will let loose a race to excel one another in reaching positions of strength. The external affairs minister cautioned the gathering that the only way to exist in the present day world is to coexist. This is not only the basic rationale of the Nonaligned Movement but also the sheet anchor of India's foreign policy.

HOME MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ON MIZO ISSUE TALKS

BK221634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jan 82

[Text] A Home Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the intransigency of Laldenga has made it clear that he does not want a peaceful settlement to the Mizo issue.

The government, therefore, came to the conclusion that no useful purpose will be served by continuing talks with him on his untenable demands. The spokesman pointed out that peace negotiations were used as a cover in a bid to undermine the lawfully constituted authority in Mizoram. The spokesman reiterated that the government is committed to maintaining peace and harmony in Mizoram. It will do its best for the speedy development of the state. He added that Laldenga will be given safe passage wherever he wants to go in Mizoram.

Meanwhile, an official spokesman in Aijal said today that the overall situation is quiet in the state. Several persons belonging to the outlawed Mizo National Front [MNF] and its sympathizers have been arrested with some arms and ammunition.

In an interview with the All-India Radio Aijal correspondent, Lt Governor Admiral S.N. Koli explained that the ban on the MNF followed several acts of violence and killing by the underground elements in the last few months.

CURFEW EXTENDED IN AIJAL; SUSPECTS ARRESTED

BK211630 Hong Kong AFP in English 1151 GMT 21 Jan 82

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 21 Jan (AFP) -- Authorities have extended from 10 to 12 hours the indefinite night curfew in Aijal, the capital of the insurgency-torn northeastern capital of Mizoram, [as published], press reports reaching here said today.

The move was said to be part of various extra security measures ordered immediately after the federal government outlawed the insurgent Mizo National Front (MNF) last night. The extended curfew would be in force from 1700 hours to 0500 hours local.

The reports quoted official sources in Aijal as saying today that about 50 suspects were immediately rounded up for engaging in "unlawful activities," including forcible collection of taxes.

13 HARIJANS KILLED IN MADHYA PRADESH CLASH

BK270314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Agency messages quoting delayed official reports in Raipur say that 13 harijans were killed in a clash between them and members of another community on Sunday [24 January] in (Kesotara) village in Madhya Pradesh. Enmity between the two communities is stated to be the cause of the clash. A police party from Durg is camping in the village as a precautionary measure.

GANDHI APPOINTS AICCI GENERAL SECRETARY

BK211317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Jan 82

[Text] Shyam Sunder Mahapatra, member of Parliament, today resigned as general secretary of the All-India Congress Committee-I [AICCI]. Chandulal Chandrakar, member of Parliament, who was still recently minister of state for tourism and civil aviation, has been appointed as one of the general secretaries of the AICCI by party president Mrs Gandhi.

PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH USSR ON METALLURGY

BK261615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol to promote cooperation in the field of nonferrous metallurgy. The protocol, which provides for technological improvements in aluminum smelter at Korba and preparation of feasibility reports for production of gallium and alumina, was signed in New Delhi today by Minister for Industry M.D. Tiwari and Soviet Minister for Nonferrous Metallurgy, P.F. Lomako.

HAQ HOLDS TALKS WITH MITTERRAND IN PARIS

For AFP and Paris Domestic Service reports of President Ziaul Haq's meetings with French President Mitterrand, including a luncheon meeting and press conference, see the France section of the 26 January Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

DEMONSTRATIONS, POSSESSION OF WEAPONS BANNED

GF261228 Karachi DAWN in English 23 Jan 82 p 8

[Text] Lahore, 22 Jan (APP) -- The district magistrate, Lahore, has, under Section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, banned forthwith carrying of lethal weapons like lathis, dandas, knives, daggers, spears or any other article which may be used as a weapon of offence, throwing of crackers etc, for a period of two months in the district.

Displaying of firearms etc, is already banned under Martial Law Order No One, Zone-A. This order, however, shall not apply to the members of the police and armed forces as well as government servants on duty.

Shouting of slogans and making demonstrations, carrying of placards and banners of any sort a. any public place has also been prohibited under the same order.

Holding of public meetings and taking out of processions at any public place has also been banned. So far as the assembly of five or more persons is concerned, this order shall not apply to the genuine marriage and funeral assemblies and processions and the assemblies for purely religious purposes in mosques and other places of worship duly acknowledged for such assemblies, as well as the persons permitted in this behalf by the district magistrate.

PAKISTANI OPPOSITION ALLIANCE MAKING 'HEADWAY'

GF231158 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 22 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 29 (KUNA) -- Behind-the-scene efforts to form a grand national alliance of major political parties of Pakistan made considerable headway, a spokesman for the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) said here today. The spokesman, a senior (MRD) leader who does not want to be identified for the present, said that the grand alliance might be named as the "solidarity front of Pakistan" ostensibly on the pattern of antigovernment trade union alliance of Poland.

He said that at least four major political parties, outside the anti-Zia (MRD) alliance, would join. He said these included Jamiatul Ulema-e Pakistan, Jama'at-e Eslami of Pakistan, Muslim League (Pagara group) and the Pakistan National Party. Two of these were rightwing in character and the third was a leftist and secular party headed by pro-Moscow Baluchistan leader Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo. A fourth political party, Khaksar Tehrik, may also become a component of the proposed grand alliance, he added.

At present the alliance comprises eight opposition political parties.

If the efforts aimed at forming a grand national alliance succeeded, at least thirteen major and small political parties would merge into one political front.

The (MRD) spokesman said the minimum cooperation program of the proposed 13-party grand national alliance would have three basic elements: end of martial law, restoration of democracy and upholding of the 1973 constitution, bulk of which has been suspended by President Ziaul Haq. He said that though many names were being considered for the proposed alliance, the most talked of was the 'solidarity.'

According to the spokesman the chances of such an alliance being formed within one month were quite bright.

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE

LD262030 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 26 Jan (IRNA) -- The minister of labour and social affairs and government spokesman, Ahmad Tavakkoli, in his weekly press conference this morning said that the Islamic Republic of Iran had always advocated the unity of Muslims against the enemies of Islam. Tavakkoli, who was speaking to foreign and domestic reporters said the relations of the Iranian nation with Arab nations had a 1400 year history. Referring to security agreements signed recently by some of the countries of the region under the guidance of the United States he said that these countries would never be able to create security for themselves under such pacts.

Commenting on the call of non-aligned countries on the General Assembly of the United Nations to hold a special session on the formal annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights by the usurper regime of Jerusalem and whether Iran would send a delegation to the UN, Tavakkoli said that Iran would take a proper stance in this regard.

Speaking on the issue of Palestine he said that as the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, had said, the solution to the issue was based on arms relying on faith and not on political games.

"The relationship of Iran and the Arab peoples is very rich but the Arab governments are so heedless that they do not understand that the interests of their countries cannot be secure [words indistinct] rough solidarity with the U.S.," the government spokesman said. He added that "it is only unity with the peoples of their own countries and the powerful Muslim people of Iran that they will be able to use their power for the growth of Islam..." He further said that the Muslim people of Iran have many times shown their ability to resist the Iraqis in the latter's imposed war and Iran was much stronger than in earlier days. He added that Iran was not anxious for war nor does it intend to commit aggression against any country.

Mr Tavakkoli said that all must know that the Islamic Republic had announced that the means to liberate Jerusalem was through the unity of the Muslims and their reliance on armed struggle. He said that the U.S. veto against UN sanctions against the Zionist regime for the annexation of the Golan Heights was another reason why the veto power was "a document of insult to humanity and mankind" on the part of the West.

Concerning the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, government spokesman said that if the intention of such cooperation was to guard the security of the people of the region, they would not succeed without keeping in mind the interests of Islam in general. He continued that if it were dominated by the U.S., it could not promote security in the region. He then said that the Islamic Republic "for the umpteenth time" invited the Persian Gulf states to truly come to embrace Islam, and also their people, and in step with the Muslim people of Iran, to use all their might to fight for the destruction of the Zionist regime.

Concerning the dispatch of oil experts to Libya, Mr Tavakkoli said that when Iran called for unity it was not "joking" and when Iran said that the U.S. was the enemy of all the peoples of the world it was not lying either. He said that the joint Iranian and Libyan oil company had not yet been established but it was clear that Iran would continue its assistance to Libya, that "unity would be achieved" and he added that this joint company would be established if the interests of both countries required such a move. He then commented that Syria's call for oil sanctions against the U.S. was welcomed by Iran but added he believed that it would not be effective if only one or two countries went along since Saudi Arabia need only raise its production only a little to offset this action. He said that other countries should also welcome the proposal and decide on a joint policy to bring the U.S. and its allies to their knees.

On the joint Iranian-Japanese petrochemical complex at Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni, the government spokesman said that the Japanese had risen the price of the project from 350 million dollars to 4.2 billion since construction of the plant began and after the Islamic revolution they did not continue plundering as in the past. He added that the Japanese partners of the project had now made a decision to build a similar plant in Saudi Arabia and were thus turning their backs on Iran without giving Iranian workers any training.

Mr Tavakkoli then advised the Japanese Government that it should not tangle relations between both countries only because of a private company. "We like to have just relations with countries which are not at war with us but we do not want to see that Japan is being directed by the Mitsui company," he said.

Iran, he said, had told the Japanese that it would pay all of the estimated costs for the completion of the last 15 percent of the plant but, he added, they kept raising questions about the damages caused by the Iraqi-imposed war. He said that the agreement signed between the two countries had clarified who would be responsible for war damages and what should be done in extraordinary situations. Iran had even announced that it would pay for all damages but again the Japanese had refused to accept completing the project, he added.

"If Mitsui does not accept an agreement which it itself had signed, then according to the agreement we will take this issue to arbitration which the agreement designates to be the Supreme Court of the Islamic Republic and our Supreme Court has total power to investigate the matter. Even if we are forced to take the case to international courts, Iran would receive all damages from the Japanese partner. Then we will pull up our sleeves as we did in the Sarcheshmeh copper plant (abandoned by the U.S.). We will complete this complex by any means possible and to every extent possible. As we demonstrated to the American plunderers, we will show certain plundering companies that we can dispense with them and do our work by ourselves," the government spokesman warned.

Questioned by a Japanese reporter if Iran would pay the first installment of the project to the Japanese banks Mr. Tavakkoli said that unlike exploiting companies Iran was a country which acted on its obligations and it expected all others to follow this good behaviour and to respect their agreements.

Questioned about Western news reports on alleged execution of Baha'is, the government spokesman said that according to the constitution not only Baha'is, but even communists would not be persecuted solely for their belief, "but any person who is active against the interests of the country will be put on trial based on law and punished...we will by no means permit individuals to live by receiving money from Israel and for spying in Iran and they will be dealt with in the most severe manner possible. It does not matter for us if they be Muslim or Baha'i.... We have executed spies working for the Soviet Union, the U.S. and Israel and any one who takes action against the interests of the Muslim nation of Iran would certainly be punished.... But we deny that any person has been executed only because he was a Baha'i....

Asked to comment on today's meeting of the Soviet and U.S. foreign ministers, Mr Tavakkoli said that definitely these two were not pondering on how to help the deprived people of the region. He added that the superpowers were thinking how they could divide the countries among both political blocs and grab the wealth of the weaker nations.

However, he said, the determining factor for the destiny of the people of the region was the will of the people which they would prove by their unity and self-determination. He said, "We give no value to the talks between the Soviet and American foreign ministers...."

VELAYATI HOLDS TALKS WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR

LD241712 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Soviet Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran Vladimir Vinogradov today met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at the Foreign Ministry building where a discussion was held on bilateral relations.

OIL MINISTER MEETS WITH GDR AMBASSADOR

LD261742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the GDR ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, accompanied by a high-ranking delegation from the petrochemical industries, met with Oil Minister Gharazi this morning. During the meeting it was decided that discussions should continue with the national petrochemical industries company on the expansion of Iran's chemical industries.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES PERSECUTION OF BAHA'IS

LD261912 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 26 Jan (IRNA) -- The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry today categorically denied Western media reports about the alleged persecution of the Baha'is in Iran, particularly rumors of summary executions of Baha'is. He reaffirmed, however, that the Baha'is had intimate relations with ex-shah's government as well as with the Zionist regime and had worked in their interest.

The spokesman said emphatically that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not recognise them as a religious sect, but rather as a political faction created by British and the Zionist intrigue. The Foreign Ministry official noted that the henchmen of the group have now fled to the Zionist regime, which fact was sufficient grounds for the charges against them. The Foreign Ministry official, who was talking to the Persian daily ETTELA'AT, declared that no Baha'i who did not have records of anti-state activity had ever been prosecuted.

A secular creed with a pseudo-religious outlook and anti-Islamic doctrine, Baha'ism was invented by one Mirza Husayn 'Ali Mazandarani in Iran in the mid-19th century.

Elsewhere in the same interview, the spokesman reiterated the Iranian position with respect to the on-going war and said that Iran would never accept mediation by any foreign country as long as the invading Iraqi troops are in Iran. He said the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops is the prerequisite for ending the conflict between the two countries. Said he, "we are sensing victory. It is Iraq which is failing wretchedly and proposing peace."

Asked about Bahrain's allegation against Iran, and his view about the anti-Iranian propaganda of the Bahraini Government, he said that the government in Bahrain had been lured into the trap of the United States. Quipped the official: "The United States intends to plunge the whole region into convulsion so that it may justify its military presence in the region."

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY' ATTACK REPELLED IN AMOL

LD261826 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 26 Jan (IRNA) -- In a clash that occurred between a group of U.S.-aligned counterrevolutionaries and the defenders of the Islamic revolution in the city of Amol, on the Caspian sea coast, on Monday night, at least 20 of the counterrevolutionaries were killed and a number of them were arrested.

The clash broke out when some insurgents (belonging to the splinter political groups) attacked the city, which attack [as received] faced the brave resistance of the city's Muslim people and security forces.

From the early hours this morning the armed insurgents fled to the nearby forests but the Islamic defenders chased them to arrest their remnants. Using strongholds made on the rooftops of several houses belonging to the city's fuedals and wealthy families, the counterrevolutionaries targetted a number of government buildings with their fire.

Latest reports indicated that at least 20 of the counterrevolutionaries, including some of their main members, have been killed; a number have been wounded and several others arrested.

Reports further indicated that the coordinated and active presence of the Muslim people on the scene so severely scared the counterrevolutionaries that they were left with no choice but flee the scene. With an unprecedented solidarity (reminding one of the early days of the revolution) the Muslim people of Amol rushed to help their defender brothers and cleanse the city of the filthy existence of the U.S.-aligned elements.

Reports also said that a number of Islamic defenders were also martyred in clashes with the counterrevolutionaries.

GACHSARAN GUARDS DISCOVER SAFE HOUSE, FUGITIVE

GF270727 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] According to a report by IRNA quoting reports of the Public Relations Office of the Gachsaran revolution guards, a safe house has been discovered in Bushehr. Three persons, members of the hypocrite minigroup, together with eight handgrenades and organizational documents and papers, were seized. The news agency reports that the leader of this group is identified as Aqdas Rafi'i, a fugitive hypocrite who after a prolonged search was caught by revolution guard brothers with the cooperation of the 36-million-strong intelligence organization. She was caught in a safe house along with a boy and another girl after a lengthy search. After the arrest, she furnished extensive information concerning the organization in Gachsaran.

KUWAITI PAPER INTERVIEWS MOJAHEDIN'S RAJAVI

GF261829 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 25 Jan 82 p 17

[Tamam al-Barazi interview with Mojahedin-e Khalq leader in Auvers-sur-Oise: "Mas'ud Rajavi: 90 percent of Iranians Support Us and 10 Percent Support Khomeyni" -- date not given]

[Excerpt] [Question] Do you not believe that Bani-Sadr has a good relationship with the Americans?

[Answer] This is another matter.

[Question] Let us now turn to the present situation of the Iranian opposition-in-exile. You have refused to join an alliance with Bakhtiar or join a broad front of all Iranian opposition groups abroad, although when he was in exile Khomeyni had joined an alliance with you and your Marxist sickle. Now all of you are in different corners.

[Answer] Praise be to God, praise be to God, have you become a monarchist? But I shall answer you: The opposition is important but it is not sufficient. I do not only want to know who is my enemy but I also want to know who is my friend. We are fighting the present regime in Iran for a better future. I know that there are people who oppose the present regime but are fighting for the past, and we should not try to return to the past. The revolution as I know it and as you know it cannot turn back. How can we join those who do not accept the minimal position of our program?

[Question] Did you propose it to them?

[Answer] I did not propose it to anyone but declared it to the world -- I did not propose it to the Kurds, but they came to me.

[Question] Which faction of the Kurds came to you?

[Answer] The Kurds who are led by 'Abdorrahman Qasemlu [secretary general of the Kurdish Democratic Party] came to us.

[Question] If all the victims who fall are members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, will the future be bright for them? Will the Mojahedin-e Khalq be finished?

[Answer] Never, because more than 70 percent of Iran's leadership has been finished.

[Question] Did the Mojahedin-e Khalq finish them?

[Answer] I do not claim any responsibility. Please do not create problems for me. It was the legitimate resistance that did this.

[Question] Do you believe that the Iranian regime will collapse or will you have to wait another 15 years as Khomeyni did?

[Answer] Let me tell you: Historical logic says that no regime can continue to swim in a sea of blood. We are not far from victory, and it is only a matter of a few years. We have not yet suffered any strategic shock -- although we are prepared to offer our most cherished possession, because you know that no one can win his freedom without paying a price.

[Question] You have been criticized for joining hands with Bani-Sadr, the ousted president.

[Answer] Because we wanted to find a possible alternative.

[Question] With a person like Bani-Sadr who is responsible for many deaths?

[Answer] I am not a supporter of Bani-Sadr and his political life, and you can ask him. However, we agree on opposing Khomeyni. He has lost his post as president and commander in chief because Khomeyni is a dictator.

[Question] But Bani-Sadr was a member of the National Front, one of whose members is Bakhtiar. Why do you join hands with Bani-Sadr but not with the others?

[Answer] The monarchists are against us. We will not join hands with them or with the communist Tudeh Party, because we have learned from our long experience that they cannot stand fast in the defense of freedom and independence. I am sure that such people will not accept our program.

[Question] Did you contact them? Why do you prejudge them? They tell me they sent a delegation to you.

[Answer] Who told you this? Tamam, you are provoking me; they are lying.

[Question] But there is a clear contradiction. You are allied with Bani-Sadr, who was a member of the National Front and who was responsible for the killing of many Mojahedin-e Khalq members, and you cooperate with some Kurdish factions.

[Answer] We are prepared to cooperate with all genuine national, progressive and Islamic forces if they accept our program.

[Question] But you did not ask anyone to draw up this program with you -- is this not an imposition?

[Answer] I am sure that the Marxists and the Tudeh Party will not accept the program for freedom and independence that we proposed. Our program says verbatim: This program has been accepted by all the members of the national council for independence and freedom. One can join the council after accepting the program.

[Question] Is it possible to introduce changes into the program?

[Answer] Freedom and independence cannot be negotiated. As the program says in its conclusion: This program can be made complete in the future.

[Question] How can France -- a Western country -- give you such military protection if Bani-Sadr did not have his Western connections?

[Answer] What protection do you mean?

[Question] The army that surrounds your residence and the French Gendarmerie?

[Answer] How many millions?

[Question] There are more than 20 soldiers that can be seen, and they are preventing French people from entering their homes at a distance of 1 km from your residence without an official permit.

[Answer] If you have any objection and want them to expel me -- and this is what the [Iranian] monarchists and the Tudeh Party demanded -- then send your objection to the French Government. How could the French protect Khomeyni when he was at Neauphle-le-Chateau when Giscard d'Estaing was in power and give him 10 times the protection they have given us? They order me every day not to talk with journalists. So far I have not held a single press conference. In a country like France, and under a socialist government, there are rights that are fruits of the French Revolution -- the right of political asylum -- but I am very restricted here.

But I would like to know what your intentions are in asking me about protection?

[Question] Because I was surprised that Western countries grant you such protection. For instance, there are many reports that say that the West assisted Khomeyni in his return to Iran. Now, these same sources say that Bani-Sadr has good relations with some Western countries.

[Answer] It is a difficult question and I must answer it honestly. Bani-Sadr is always with me here. You know that the socialist French society has its laws. If they should not grant political asylum to some individuals this will be used as propaganda against the government. Do you know how many plots are hatched against us here by Khomeyni's agents? This is because Khomeyni views us and what we represent as a powerful alternative to him. He is spending billions of dollars to plan our assassination. If you remember, Khalkhali said that Khomeyni is planning to assassinate us here. I am not a political refugee here; I have an Iranian passport and a visa. When Giscard d'Estaing was in office he had good relations with the shah and yet Khomeyni was here. When the French Government granted Bani-Sadr political asylum and granted me a visa it was natural that it should provide protection. I chose France because Khomeyni chose it in the past. I want our people's voice that has been suppressed by Khomeyni to reach the whole world, for the French people have a live conscience.

[Question] But you agree with me that France's decision to accept you was a political decision?

[Answer] Of course it was a political decision.

[Question] But you know that political decisions in the West are not made for your safety or for Bani-Sadr's. They have a price. This is the point that was raised by some people when Khomeyni was accepted -- they said that the West decided to get rid of the shah.

[Answer] Of course, of course.

[Question] Then has the West decided to support you to get rid of Khomeyni?

[Answer] You are truly logical. Our stay in France is a political decision as it was for Khomeyni, whom you say is anti-imperialist. As for me, I shall not pay any price for this, particularly as I have said to the French Government more than once: Of course, you know that I am the serious alternative to Khomeyni and you want to establish good relations with us. I told them that I reject all relations that are based on any form of imperialism. I told them that we do not want a foreign policy like Khomeyni's, which is based on deceit, and that we reject imperialist relationships everywhere.

[Question] Including Iran's occupation of three Arab islands [Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa] and Arabistan [Khuzestan]?

[Answer] This is another matter.

[Question] But if you reject imperialist relationships in one place you have to reject them in all areas.

[Answer] I am talking about my stand toward the French Government, and let me continue this. I have said to the French Government several times that at any time it feels that my presence here is a threat to the French in Iran it can ask me to leave and I shall leave. You know that since 1965 I was underground. I shall return to Iran; I know how to disappear there. I did not come here to enjoy security; I came to put an end to Khomeyni's regime by making our voice reach the world and expose Khomeyni's face.

[Question] But you have not answered me about your stand on the Arab islands.

[Answer] I prefer to talk about this at another time -- especially after this interview is published.

OFFICIAL DENIES TROOPS ON TURKISH BORDER

LD261800 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 24 Jan (IRNA) -- The new governor general of West Azarbayjan Province, Ali Reza Shekh Attar, on Monday denied that there were any military movements in the Iran-Turkey border strip and said that these were only rumours and were not confirmed by official reliable sources. The governor general stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoyed friendly economic and political ties with the Turkish Government.

FORCES DAMAGE IRAQI OIL INSTALLATIONS

LD262202 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 26 Jan (IRNA) -- The oil installations of Al-Faw, southern Iraq, sustained heavy damages from the accurate fire of the Islamic combatants on Monday.

Also, in the occupied section of Khuninshahr, at least twelve Iraqi soldiers were killed when the heavy-artillery fire of the Iranian forces smashed one enemy rallying place and more than five watch posts, setting ablaze one Iraqi fuel tank during the same time. Elsewhere, beyond the Arvand River, movements of logistical vehicles of the Iraqis were halted when the Islamic defenders silenced the enemy artillery fire.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 771

LD261732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Communique 771 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Our dear compatriots are hereby informed of some of the battles and acts of self-sacrifice conducted by the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the situation on the war fronts:

During the past 24 hours battles continued periodically on most fronts in the western and southern parts of the country with exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapon fire. Our forces killed or wounded a number of enemy servicemen and inflicted losses and damage on the Saddamist forces, so much so that enemy losses on the southern fronts included the destruction of an antiaircraft gun, two armored personnel carriers and two vehicles together with their crews.

The brave tribal mobilization combatants in Dar Ballut, Tang-e Hajian, Bazi Deraz and other defended places opened retaliatory fire on enemy positions and, while silencing the enemy's fire, continued to defend their positions. During the clash that took place on the Malekshahi heights, the gendarmerie combatants, opening heavy-weapon fire on enemy positions and fortifications, set ablaze and destroyed one supply depot, one ammunition truck and several trenches and observation posts belonging to the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces.

At 1700 on 23 January, our gendarmerie combatants succeeded in killing about 20 Iraqi servicemen during surprise operations in the Bostan region.

Our naval heroes on the Khuninshahr front, while returning enemy fire, destroyed three enemy observation posts and killed the occupants.

On 24 January, the Iraqi aggressors aimed their long-range artillery fire on residential districts of the city of Gilan-e Gharb. A number of our dear compatriots were wounded.

Also yesterday the enemy opened fire on residential districts of Abadan, resulting in casualties.

During the battle on 24 January, three members of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH YUGOSLAV COMPANY -- According to a report by the Central News Unit, the Yugoslav ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning met with Mr Hasan Ghafuri-Fard, minister of energy, in the ministry building. In this meeting, an agreement concerning the Ostur dam in Gilan Province was signed between the Mohab Engineering Services Company and the Energoproject Company of Yugoslavia, which will cooperate with Mohab Company in this project. The period envisaged for the implementation of this project is 22 months. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 82 LD]